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BVWST Project 70770

BVWST File E.1.3

RECONNAISSANCE SUMMARY

DECATUR BARDING AND SPAWR LANDFILL

ILD 984 766 378

BVWST Project # 70770

SEPTEMBER 10, 1992

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Reviewed By: William Loco 11 Sep 92

1.0 Introduction

On August 26, 1992, B&V Waste Science and Technology Corp. (BVWST) representatives Tim Moody and Ramona Reints conducted a site screening inspection reconnaissance at the Decatur Barding and Spawr Landfill site (B&S Landfill) in Decatur, Illinois. The weather was partly cloudy. The temperature was about 95 F, with winds out of the south at five to fifteen miles per hour. Present and representing the site was James Spawr, son of site owner Lavone Barding; and Howard Tenney, Spawr's attorney. Accompanying Tenney was Norma Ann Hubert, a court reporter for Anchor Reporting. Spawr can be contacted through Tenney at Tenney and Tenney, 1264 First of American Center, P.O. Box 88, Decatur, Illinois, 62525, (217)423-1800.

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



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The reconnaissance began at 0900 hours with a discussion of the visit's purpose. The following paragraphs summarize the information obtained during the discussion and inspection.

2.0 Site Ownership/Operators

Lavone Barding owns most of the B & S Landfill. She obtained the property in 1962 from her husband, Junior Lewis Barding, upon his death. At that time, two acres of the 66-acre site were split off and given to the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Barding, James Spawr and Junior L. Barding Jr. The sons began to operate a construction firm on their two acres in 1962.

The deceased J. L. Barding obtained the property in the mid 1950s. Spawr stated his father leased the site to the Macon County Landfill Corporation (MCLC) beginning in the 1950s to the middle or late 1960s. The MCLC, formed by several trash haulers, leased the site from Barding for landfilling industrial and municipal wastes. According to Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) files, landfilling ceased in 1971. The Barding sons operated the construction firm onsite until 1980, when they opened Standard Waste. Standard Waste operations include collecting recyclables and maintaining several garbage routes.

3.0 Presence of CERCLA Regulated Substances (40 CFR 302.4)

The B&S Landfill Site is near Decatur, Illinois, a city where many industries are located. When the site began operations, it was probably the only operating landfill in the area. Industrial and municipal wastes are assumed to be disposed of there. A liquid waste pit was allegedly used at the site. CERCLA-regulated substances may have been released at the site. BVWST could not obtain any information about liners or cover materials used at the landfill.

In 1984, IEPA representatives reported 19 drums were present onsite near the east property line. Spawr stated he did not accompany the IEPA representatives during their visit and was unaware drums had been found. Barding took BVWST to the alleged location, but no drums were observed. IEPA reported the presence of two leachate flows on two separate occasions north and west of the sanitary district property. BVWST observed some liquid draining in this area, but could not determine its source.

4.0 Site Characteristics

The B&S Landfill Site does not have a common address. Standard Waste is at 965 South Wyckles Road in Decatur, Illinois. Decatur has a population of about 84,000. The site occupies about sixty-six acres in a rural area. It is bordered on the north by residences, on the west by US Route 51 and the Macon County Landfill, on the south by the Sangamon River, and on the east by the Sanitary District of Decatur Sludge Lagoon Facility and Wyckles Road. Across Wyckles Road is the Macon County Conservation District Rock Springs Center for Environmental Discovery. The nearest school, Dennis School, is about one and a half miles northeast of the site.

Access to the property is uncontrolled. The main access is a gravel road off of Wyckles Road near the northern end of the site. When this road was used during landfilling operations, tickets were issued to haulers from an attended guard shack. A second dirt road enters the northwestern portion of the site from a residential subdivision. A third dirt road enters the southern part of the site near the river. No gates are present across the roads. A four strand barbed wire fence surrounds about two-thirds of the site, the rest of the site is not fenced. Vehicle tracks were observed in the mud near the river's edge. Spawr said the tracks were from teenagers driving four-wheelers in the area.

The site topography is sloping and irregular. The lowest elevation is the southern border at the Sangamon River. Much of the site drains there. North of the sanitary district property, the land slopes down to the southeast. Ditches are present along Wyckles Road to convey drainage south to the river. Onsite runoff flows in many directions across the 66 acre site. BVWST had difficulty observing the site because it was very overgrown.

A private well is in use at Standard Waste. Nearby homes also use by private wells.